

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



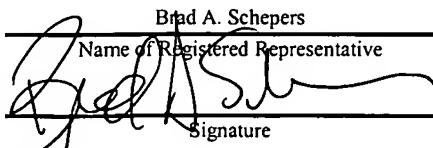
In re patent application of:) Before the Examiner:
Charles L. Branch et al.) Pedro Philogene
)
Application of Serial No. 10/698,702) Group Art Unit 3733
)
Filed October 31, 2003) Ref. No. MSDI-186/
) PC365.07
INTERBODY FUSION GRAFTS)
AND INSTRUMENTATION) December 18, 2008

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated December 15, 2008, please consider the following amendments and remarks. Additionally, please charge any additional fees which may be necessary to Deposit Account No. 12-2424, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:	
December 18, 2008	
_____ Date of Deposit	
Brad A. Schepers	
_____ Name of Registered Representative	
	
_____ Signature	
December 18, 2008	
_____ Date of Signature	

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Claims 217-276 were pending in the subject application for the final Office Action dated December 15, 2008. Each of the pending claims currently stands rejected. In view of the following amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are hereby requested.